NUMB. CIV.

The SPECTATOR.

Qualis equos Threissa fatigat
Harpalyce ——— *Virg.*

Friday, June 29. 1711.

It would be a noble Improvement, or rather a Recovery of what we call good Breeding, if nothing were to pass amongst us for agreeable which was the least Transgression against that Rule of Life called Decorum, or a Regard to Decency. This would command the Respect of Mankind, because it carries in it Deference to their good Opinion; as Humility lodged in a worthy Mind is always attended with a certain Homage, which no haughty Soul, with all the Arts imaginable, will ever be able to purchase. *Tully* says Virtue and Decency are so nearly related, that it is difficult to separate them from each other, but in our Imaginations. As the Beauty of the Body always accompanies the Health of it, so certainly is Decency Consistant to Virtue: As Beauty of Body, with an agreeable Carriage, pleases the Eye, and that Pleasure consists in that we observe all the Parts with a certain Elegance are proportioned to each other; so does Decency of Behaviour which appears in our Lives obtain the Approbation of all with whom we converse, from the Order, Constancy and Moderation of our Words and Actions. This flows from the Reverence we bear towards every good Man, and to the World in general; for to be negligent of what any one thinks of you, does not only shew you arrogant but abandoned. In all these Considerations we are to distinguish how one Virtue differs from another: As it is the Part of Justice never to do Violence, it is of Modesty never to commit Offence. In this last Particular lies the whole Force of what is called Decency; to this Purpose that excellent Moralist above-mentioned talks of Decency; but this Quality is more easily comprehended by an ordinary Capacity than expressed with all his Eloquence. This Decency of Behaviour is generally transgressed among all Orders of Men; nay the very Women, tho' themselves created it as it were for Ornament, are often very much mistaken in this ornamental Part of Life. It would methinks be a short Rule for Behaviour, if every young Lady in her Dress, Words, and Actions were only to recommend her self as a Sister, Daughter, or Wife, and make her self the more esteemed in one of those Characters. The Care of themselves, with Regard to the Families in which Women are born, is the best Motive for their being courted to come into the Alliance of other Houses. Nothing can promote this End more than a strict Preservation of Decency. I should be glad if a certain Equestrian Order of Ladies, some of whom one meets in an Evening at every Outlet of the Town, would take this Subject into their serious Consideration: In order thereunto the following Letter may not be wholly unworthy their Perusal.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'GOing lately to take the Air in one of the most 'beautiful Evenings this Season has produced, as I was admiring the Serenity of the Sky, 'the lively Colours of the Fields, and the Variety 'of the Landskip every Way around me, my Eyes 'were suddenly call'd off from these inanimate Objects by a little Party of Horsemen I saw passing 'the Road. The greater Part of them escap'd 'my particular Observation, by reason that my 'whole Attention was fix'd on a very fair Youth 'who rode in the Midst of them, and seemed to 'have been dress'd by some Description in a Romance. His Features, Complexion, and Habit 'had a remarkable Effeminacy, and a certain languishing Vanity appear'd in his Air: His Hair, 'well curl'd and powder'd, hung to a considerable 'Length on his Shoulders, and was wantonly ty'd, 'as if by the Hands of his Mistress, in a Scarlet 'Ribbon, which play'd like a Streamer behind 'him: He had a Coat and Wastcoat of blue Camlet trimm'd and embroider'd with Silver, a Cravat of the finest Lace, and wore, in a smart Cock, 'a little Beaver Hat, edg'd with Silver, and made 'more sprightly by a Feather. His Horse too, 'which was a Pacer, was adorn'd after the same 'airy Manner, and seem'd to share in the Vanity

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of the Rider. As I was pitying the Luxury of this young Person, who appear'd to me to have been educated only as an Object of Sight, I perceiv'd on my nearer Approach, and as I turned my Eyes downward, a Part of the Equipage I had not observ'd before; which was a Petticoat of the same with the Coat and Waistcoat. After this Discovery, I look'd again on the Face of the fair *Amazon* who had thus deceiv'd me, and thought those Features which had before offended me by their Softness, were now strengthen'd into as improper a Boldness; and tho' her Eyes Nose and Mouth seem'd to be form'd with perfect Symmetry, I am not certain whether she, who in Appearance was a very handsome Youth, may not be in Reality a very indifferent Woman.

'There is an Objection which naturally presents it self against these occasional Perplexities and Mixtures of Dress, which is, that they seem to break in upon that Propriety and Distinction of Appearance in which the Beauty of different Characters is preserv'd; and if they shou'd be more frequent than they are at present, wou'd look like turning our publick Assemblies into a general Masquerade. The Model of this *Amazonian* Hunting-Habit for Ladies, was, as I take it, first imported from *France*, and well enough expresses the Gayety of a People who are taught to do any thing so it be with an Assurance; but I cannot help thinking it fits awkardly yet on our *English* Modesty. The Petticoat is a kind of Incumbrance upon it; and in the *Amazons* I should think fit to go on the Plunder of our Sex a Ornaments they ought to add to their Spoils, and compleat their Triumph over us, by wearing the Breeches.

'If it be natural to contract insensibly the Manners of those we imitate, the Ladies who are pleas'd with assuming our Dresses will do us more Honour than we deserve, but they will do it at their own Expence. Why should the lovely *Camilla* deceive us in more Shapes than her own, and affect to be represented in her Picture with a Gun and a Spaniel, while her elder Brother, the Heir of a worthy Family, is drawn in Silks like his Sister? The Dress and Air of a Man are not well to be divided; and those who would not be content with the Latter ought never to think of assuming the Former. There is so large a Portion of natural Agreeableness among the fair Sex of our Island, that they seem betray'd into these romantick Habits without having the same Occasion for them with their Inventors: All that needs to be desir'd of them is, that they wou'd *be themselves*, that is, what Nature design'd them; and to see their Mistake when they depart from this, let them look upon a Man who affects the Softness and Effeminacy of a Woman, to learn how their Sex must appear to us when approaching to the Resemblance of a Man.

I am,

SIR,

Your most humble Servant.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this present Friday, being the 29th of June, will be reviv'd a Comedy call'd *The Successful Strangers*. The Part of Silvia by Mrs. Mills, Antonetta by Mr. Bloodworth, Don Carlos by Mr. Husband, Don Lopez by Mr. Norris, Don Francisco by Mr. Bullock Senior, Sancho by Mr. Pate, Gusman Mr. Bullock Junior, Dorothea by Mrs. Porter, Felicians by Mrs. Bradshaw, Farmosa by Mrs. Powell.

This Play is sold by Jacob Tonson, at Shakespear's Head over against Catharine-street in the Strand.

At the Indian Man in Russel-Street, Covent-Garden, is a Parcel of rich Jewels, viz. a Brilliant Diamond String and Ear-Rings, Rings, Buckles, Pendants, and also fine Lace, rich Silks, Muslins, and other valuable Goods, to be dispos'd of at reasonable Rates, the whole amounting to 675 l. which, for the Encouragement of Buyers, will be divided into 360 Shares, the biggest whereof is 100 l. Value, the least 20 s. Any one of these may be purchas'd for the single Sum of 1 l. 7 s. Crown, as may be known more at large at the Place of Sale, where Attendance will be given till all the Goods be sold. It being near full, 'tis propos'd to divide the Shares on the 12th of July next.

An Infallible Electuary for Coughs and Colds. Which immediately and safely cures them to admiration, takes away all Wheesing, Shortness of Breath, difficulty of Breathing, Soreness or Rawness of the Stomach or Wind-pipe; is Healing and Balsamick, causes gentle and easie Expectoration, rectifies all manner of disorders of the Lungs, preserving them intire, sound and good, certainly curing even Ulcers therein; removes all old short Coughs, cures the Phthisick and Asthma to a Miracle, also Catarrhs or Defluxions of Rheum, &c. Its Noble Virtues are inexpressible, for it effectually and quickly cures all sorts of Coughs, Colds and Disorders of the Breast and Lungs to a Wonder; 'tis not to be equall'd. Price 2 s. 6 d. a Pot. With Directions. Sold only at Mr. Payn's Toy-shop, at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard, near Cheap-side.

Sir *Theodore Mayern's* (Physitian to King Charles) Opiate for the Teeth, viz. Makes them clean and white as Ivory, tho' never so black or rotten, fastneth and preserveth them from the Tooth-ach, being a most excellent thing for preventing and killing the Scurvy, having nothing in it destructive to the Fibres, prohibiting or hurting the Gums, as is the Nature of all Powders. About the Quantity of a large Pea, rubbed hard only upon the Teeth every Morning; washing it off with clean Water, until you have used one of the Largest Boxes, which will be sufficient unless greatly unprovided (with Decayes), and then may use more as Occasion requires. It having been Experienc'd by several Persons of Quality to be the only thing extant. Price of the largest Box 2 s. 6 d. the lesser sort 1 s. 6 d. Also the Imperial Snuff, each Paper 6 d. Sold at Mr. Greenes under the Royal Exchange, at John's Coffee-House in Swithin's Ally, near the Exchange, at the Angel in Ball-Ally near Lombard-street, at Mr. Jackson's the Corner of Wood-street Cheapside, at Mr. Rogers the Book-Binder of St. Paul's Church-yard, at the Rose and Crown under St. Dunstan's Church Fleet-street, at the Plough in the New-Exchange Strand, at Will's Coffee-house under Scotland-yard Gateway, and at Oldman's Coffee house near Charing-Cross.

On Thursday the 9th of July will be published,

The History of the Works of the Learned: or, An Impartial Account of Books lately printed in all Parts of Europe: With a particular Relation of the State of Learning in every Country: For January, February and March. Price 1 s. The for April, May and June will also be published on the 16th of July, after which every Month will be published the Beginning of each subsequent Month. Printed for B. Rhodes, A. Bell, and D. Midwinter; where are to be had the former Volumes, or most single ones.

Just Publish'd,

The Passion of Sappho, and Feast of Alexander: Set to Musick by Mr. Thomas Clayton, as it is performed at his House in York-Buildings. Printed for Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over against Catherine-street in the Strand.

The Art of English Poetry, containing, I. Rules for making Verses. II. A Collection of the most natural, agreeable and sublime Thoughts, viz. Allusions, Similes, Descriptions and Characters of Persons and Things that are to be found in the best English Poets. III. A Dictionary of Rhymes. By Edward Bysshe, Gent. The Fourth Edition, 8vo. Printed for Sam. Buckley, at the Dolphin in Little-Britain, and Sold by the Booksellers.

Just Publish'd,

Reflections Critical and Satyrical, upon a late Rhapsody call'd, An Essay on Criticism: By Mr. Dennis. Printed for B. Lintott, and Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane, Mr. Graves in St. James's-street, Mr. Friend in Westminster-Hall, Mrs. Bond at Charing-Cross, Mr. Taylor at the Ship in Paternoster-Row, and by Mr. Phillips against the Royal Exchange. Price 6 d.

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